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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 HA-05 PA-02 ICAE-00 /028 W

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE USED BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AUGUST 20.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTS BY A PRIVATE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE BEING KILLED IN ARGENTINA TO PREVENT THEM FROM SPEAKING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IAHRC (INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION) WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THERE SOON FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS THERE? IS THE U.S. LOOKING INTO IT?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA ACKNOWLEDGES HOLDING, THERE MIGHT STILL BE CLANDESTINE PRISON FACILITIES IN ARGENTINA WHERE UNACKNOWLEDGED PRISONERS--PRESUMABLY SOME OF THE DISAPPEARED--MIGHT BE HELD OR EVEN KILLED. WE ASKED OUR EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES TO INVESTIGATE. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY THESE REPORTS. THE

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GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA HAS STATED THAT THERE ARE NO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 4/22/82
RDS ☐ OT KDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DATE
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

CLANDESTINE DETENTION FACILITIES IN THAT COUNTRY.

WE REMAIN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA, PARTICULARLY THE FATE OF THE MANY WHO HAVE "DISAPPEARED." WE CONTINUE TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND TO URGE IT TO RESTORE FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA HAS INVITED THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO VISIT ARGENTINA, AND THE COMMISSION HAS ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION. WE ARE SURE THAT NOTHING WILL ARISE WHICH IN ANY WAY INTERFERES WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN ESTABLISHING THE FACTS WITH RESPECT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AT THIS TIME. VANCE